

Long Live MAY DAY

1st of May is a red letter day in the history of working class movement and is observed as such by the working people throughout the whole world. In countries where the people under the leadership of working class have succeeded in establishing their own state and ending exploitation of man by man, observance of the day is marked by colourful celebration expressing spontaneous gaiety of people.

In countries where the imperialists capitalists still wield the state power, the working people observe the day by renewing their pledge to carry on uncompromising struggles against the ruling imperialists capitalists till victory is achieved and the foundation stone for uninterrupted social progress is solidly laid. On the occasion of May Day our warm greetings go to the working people of our country as also to the working people of all other countries. On behalf of the working class of India we send warm fraternal greetings to the international working class movement in general and to the unprecedented heroic struggle by the people of Vietnam against the US imperialists for national liberation and national re-unification in particular.

On the occasion of the great May Day we recall the significant victories world communist movement has achieved and is continuing to achieve in its struggle against imperialism capitalism for national independence, peace, democracy and socialism. While recalling with pride this onward march of world communist movement we at the same time cannot but observe that owing to failure to conduct on a correct line ideological struggles to resolve the ideological differences between different communist parties, the communist camp today is faced with unthink-

able disunity and rift full advantage of which is being taken by the imperialist camp in general and the USA in particular in continuing its role as leader of international reaction and carrying on its aggressive war in Indo-China. If the disunity and rift in the world communist camp can be removed and unity restored then international working class movement will make a tremendous headway in the direction of world revolution and establishment of world communist society.

We firmly believe that, notwithstanding ideological differences between the different communist parties, the unity of the communist camp can be restored on the basis of the following common minimum programme against the common enemy, namely,
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Com. Subodh Banerjee Left for Moscow

Com. Subodh Banerjee, the Vice-President of All India UTUC (Lenin Sarani) had left Calcutta on 23rd April last to reach Moscow via New Delhi, on being invited to attend May Day celebration in Moscow. Prior to leaving for Moscow he participated in the Asian Trade Union Seminar, held in New Delhi as a representative of UTUC (Lenin Sarani).

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JOINT CALL FOR Jute Workers' Strike from May 8

(By a Staff Reporter)

Comrade Fatick Ghosh (Bengal Jute Mill Workers' Union), Comrade Kamal Sarkar (Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union) and Comrade Jatin Chakravorty (Bengal Provincial Chatkal Mazdoor Union) have called upon the jute workers of West Bengal to launch a continuous strike in the jute industry from 8th May, 1972.

In a statement issued to the Press, they declared, "we stand by the strike decision for realisation of the long-standing demands and call upon the jute workers of West Bengal to unitedly commence industry-wide continuous general strike in jute industry with effect from 8th May, 1972 on 10-point demands and to continue the strike till the demands are realised.

strike in jute industry. This is also the feeling of the jute workers and they are fully prepared for it."

The statement also urged upon the INTUC, the AITUC and the HMS to come forward to launch a united movement of all the jute workers of West Bengal.

S U C DAY AT RAJGANGPUR

(From Our Correspondent)

Rajgangpur (Orissa), April 24. On the auspicious occasion of the twenty-fourth foundation day of the S.U.C.I., the only genuine revolutionary working class party in India, a big meeting, with thousands of workers participating, was held here to-day.

The meeting was presided over by Com. Samar Sarkar

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"The demands are—immediate nationalisation of jute industry, a minimum wage of Rs. 300/- per month, Permanency of Budli Workers, Revision on wage structure, variable D.A. at the rate of 0.35 paise per point on 1939 Base, Gratuity at the rate of one month's full pay for each year of service, Permanency of workmen at 115%, Free quarters or House Rent Allowance at 20% etc.

"We are firmly convinced that jute workers will not be able to realise their long-standing demands without an industry-wide continuous

Some Instances of 'Progressiveness' within the Ruling Congress as Viewed by the CPI

When some other left democratic parties accused with concrete evidence that the ruling Congress, not content with entirely rigging the last general election and annihilating opposition parties inside the legislature, was now engaged in trying to liquidate them even from outside the legislature by forcibly suppressing, with the backing of the administration and the police, the mass organisations of workers, peasants, students, etc, led by these parties, in West Bengal, the CPI leadership in the state basking in the reflected glory of their bigger partner in the PDA running the government gleefully ridiculed the accusation as **canard**. They then forgot the wisdom of the Bengali proverb 'when cow dung cakes burn, cow dung laughs'. Now the CPI is making the same accusation against the ruling Congress. Let us cite a few examples.

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Led by the officer-in-charge of Magra P.S., a **posse** of CRP men entered into a factory at Bansberia and arrested seven workers who were immediately charge-sheeted and suspended by the management. All these seven workers belong to the CPI-led trade union and it is reported that the arrest had been made at the instance of the management and the local Congress leaders.

In a cotton textile mill at Champdani under Bhadreswar P.S. the police made similar arrest of four workers including the Secretary of the CPI-led trade union there. Here also the arrest had been made, according to CPI source, at the instance of the management and local Congress leaders. Shri Biswanath Mukherjee, CPI leader, made these charges in his speech on the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

Uptill then the ruling Congress remained in the background from where they pulled the strings. May be, the ruling Congress till then felt shy to openly attack their local partner in the PDA. But shyness is no virtue to the ruling Congress. So, the ruling Congress under the garb of the BPNTUC, its labour wing in West Bengal, came out with a statement strongly condemning the Indian Oil Employees' Union led by the CPI and formed a parallel union to break the Employees' Union. **Kalantar**, Bengali organ of the CPI, in its issue dated 12th April last condemned this disruptive move of the BPNTUC. In this case there was no use of physical violence against the CPI-led trade union workers by the ruling Congress. The attack by the ruling Congress went up to the issuing of a statement. It was only natural. Because, fruits take time to become ripe.

Now turn to **Kalantar** dated 21st April last and you will not fail to mark the development in the relation between the senior and the junior partner of the PDA in West Bengal. The CPI organ in its editorial note comments that the police has openly taken the role of strike-breakers in the coal-field areas of Asansol. Under police protection strike-breakers from outside are being brought in trucks and the police and the CRP men are assaulting and arresting striking male and female workers of North East Sajanpur Coal mine. Dr. Joygopal Sharma, a local Congress leader, with Congress flag in hand and accompanied by hoodlums armed with deadly weapons is conducting the crusade to wipe out the CPI trade union workers and supporters from the area. These are some incidents concerning CPI-led trade union.

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Let us now turn our attention to the peasant belt of the CPI and see how the Alliance between the ruling Congress

and the CPI in West Bengal is functioning. One should not rely on reactionary bourgeois Press, lest that might give one a distorted picture of a 'really good thing'. It is better that we should depend on authentic report by the **Kalantar**. The editorial comment of the said Bengali organ of the CPI in its issue dated 14th April last runs as follows: "Four years back the CPI occupied vested lands in Sonafuli of Cooch Behar and settled 65 peasant families there. Recently, some notorious Jotedars accompanied by goondas with Congress flags in their hands took away those lands from the peasants with the silent backing of the police and declared that none but Congress-members would get that land".

In Garbeta in Midnapore district the police is rampaging the houses of workers of the CPI-led Kishan organisation on the false plea of looting of paddy, arresting them and even molesting peasant women. This had been reported in **Kalantar** of the same date.

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So far we have cited some incidents relating to the CPI-led trade unions and peasant organisation. Let us now mention something about the CPI-led student organisation. The students' union at Surendranath College, Women's section, Calcutta, is led by the AISF, which is the student wing of the CPI. While the election of representatives from different sections of the College was going on with every possibility of the AISF coming out victorious, outsiders (not girls but young men) well-known as workers of the Chhatra Parishad, the student wing of the ruling Congress, entered the college, misbehaved with the girl students, snatched away the ballot papers and did not allow the election to continue. The incident had been reported in **Kalantar** dated 16th April last.

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One more instance and we will conclude. Khardah municipality in 24 Parganas district is run by the CPI. Several workers of the ruling Congress in the name of the municipal teachers' association gheraoed the Chairman and the commissioners of the municipality, abused them in the most filthy language and even assaulted them,

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May we ask the ranks of the CPI a few questions? The CPI has discovered progressiveness in the ruling Congress. Their alliance with the ruling Congress in West Bengal has been named Progressive Democratic Alliance. And the government is the government of this Alliance, even though the CPI may not be in the Ministry. For acts of omission and commission by this Government the CPI is equally responsible as the ruling Congress is. What sort of Alliance is the PDA when its senior partner is trying to destroy the mass organisations of workers, peasants, students, etc. led by its other partner, namely the CPI? The leadership finds progressiveness in the ruling Congress. But what sort of progressiveness is it to use police in breaking trade unions and peasant organisations of its partner in the Alliance? What sort of democratic norm of behaviour is it to use violence to break mass organisations of a fraternal party? The fact is that the ruling Congress is neither a progressive nor a democratic party as the CPI leadership thinks. It is a reactionary bourgeois party representing aggregate interest of Indian monopoly capitalism. Will the ranks of the CPI give serious thought over these questions?

Resist Centre's Move to Ban Strikes

In the month of September last we expressed our apprehension that a proposal to completely ban strikes and **bandhs** was under the active consideration of the Union Government. What then was mere apprehension is now going to be a hard reality. The plea of the President and the Prime Minister of India for a three-year moratorium on strikes and lock-outs, repeated on several occasions in recent months, is an indication of impending official action on the line. It is, however, true that the Union Labour Minister had assured in Parliament that the Government was not contemplating a ban on strikes. But past experience tells us to take this assurance with a grain of salt.

But why should strikes be banned? According to official view, strikes and **bandhs** "not only paralyses everyday life but also badly hits the entire economy, causing irreparable loss to the country." Rate of growth of industrial production in our country is, no doubt declining in recent years. It was 6.4 per cent in 1968; 7.1 per cent in 1969; 4.8 per cent in 1970 and only 2 per cent (estimated) in 1971. But can the working class and strikes by them be held responsible for this steep fall in the rate of growth of industrial production? For this fall neither the workers nor strikes by them are to blame, yet the Prime Minister, Union Finance Minister, Industrial Development Minister, Union Labour Minister and a host of other ruling Congress leaders in tune with the monopolists are holding our working class and strikes by them primarily responsible for it.

The ruling Congress leaders in season and out of season rend the sky by their loud shouts that closure of industrial establishments and fall in industrial production in West Bengal is the outcome of the labour policy of the first United Front Government in the state when Com. Subodh Banerjee was the Labour Minister. That this accusation is false will be evident from the fact that closure of industrial establishments and fall in

industrial production is not just a West Bengal phenomenon; it is not only an all-India affair either. It has affected the entire capitalist world. Besides, it should also be noted that in West Bengal the engineering industry is largely dependent on orders from the Government and the Railways. The Indo-Pak war in 1965 and Government's orders for military requirements helped the engineering industry in West Bengal to expand its productive capacities largely. But the sudden end of war, economic recession, pruning of the Third Five Year Plan and consequent steep fall of Government and Railway orders for engineering goods brought the engineering industry in West Bengal on to the verge of collapse. The employer class tried to shift the entire burden of this crisis on to the shoulders of the working class. Large-scale retrenchment and lay-off of workers followed. When the workers moved to resist this unjust attack, mills and factories were closed as a retaliatory measure. In many a case the management, in order not to pay retrenchment compensation benefits and circumvent law in this regard, manufactured so-called labour-troubles with the help of agent-provocateurs and closed the industries. The political motive to discredit the United Front Government, particularly its pro-

working class labour policy, on the part of the monopolists was also there. All this led to closure of 123 industrial establishments, including 34 units which were closed in 1966 during the regime of the first United Front Government in the state. But even then it was not the worst time. The number of closed units rose to 139 in 1968 and to 320 in 1970 when there was no United Front Government in the State. These facts establish the falsity of the accusation by the ruling Congress that the labour policy of the first UF Government was responsible for closure of industries and fall in industrial production in West Bengal. The charge by the ruling Congress Ministers and other leaders that the working class of our country and strikes and **bandhs** by them are primarily responsible for the slow rate of economic growth, steep decline of industrial production and low productivity is equally false. It only expresses their anti-labour outlook.

First of all, take the case of closed industrial units. About 3000 industrial units were closed on the 31st of March, 1971. That is the latest available figure on an all national scale. It cannot be denied that closure of so many concerns has its contribution in the matter of fall in industrial production in India. But is the working class responsible for this closure in any way? Certainly not. Even in those cases where the closure has been made on the alleged ground of 'labour trouble' the workers in most cases are not responsible. The working class is opposed to this closure. They are demanding immediate re-opening of closed industrial units (if necessary the government should take over and open them). But that is not being done though the re-opening of the closed establishments will not only provide employment to lakhs of workers who have lost

their jobs because of the closure but also raise industrial production. How then can one blame the working class for closure of industrial units which has certainly contributed to the decline in industrial production? The real cause of closure of industrial units and consequent fall in industrial production is to be found elsewhere.

Then take the case of large-scale non-utilisation of installed capacities of industries which also has its share in bringing down industrial production in our country. It is an undeniable fact that almost all the industries are working below capacities. In some of the branches of engineering industry the idle capacity is as high as 60 per cent. This has resulted in severe fall in production and loss of employment of lakhs of workers. The working class has been agitating for full utilization of installed capacities as that will provide employment to lakhs of workers rendered surplus due to non-utilization of installed capacities and increase industrial production. But their demand is being systematically turned down. How then can the workers be held primarily responsible for non-utilisation of installed capacities of industries which has contributed to the decline in industrial production? The main cause of this non-utilisation lies elsewhere.

Now take the case of low productivity. It is true that compared to the advanced capitalist countries the labour productivity in our country is low. But is our working class primarily responsible for it? No. Man working on machine gives productivity. Now if the machine is old, back-dated and out-moded, you cannot expect high productivity. In states like West Bengal where by and large plants and machines are as old as fifty years (vide the survey conducted about small engineering concerns in West Bengal by Prof. Banerjee of Jadavpur University under

INHERENT CRISIS OF CAPITALIST ECONOMY—ROOT CAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL SLUMP

a scheme sponsored by the Reserve Bank of India) the productivity is bound to be low. But on the whole the productivity of our labour is not low. This is established by the comment of a team of Japanese experts that "the Indian factory workers' efficiency should be assessed as 80 per cent of that of the skilled Japanese worker while the Indian wage level was 20 per cent of that of Japan." This is from the report submitted by a team of experts sent by Mitsubishi, one of the biggest monopoly Houses in Japan, to study industrial climate in our country.

Thus, neither for decline in production nor for low productivity (?) can the working class in our country be blamed. Then what really account for closure of large number of industrial units, massive non-utilisation of installed capacities of industries, slow rate of economic growth and steep fall in industrial production in India? It should be noted that the malaise is not confined to India alone; it is noticed in all the capitalist countries of the world developed and under-developed. Examine the growth of industrial production of the capitalist world as a whole and you will find it. Average growth of industrial production of the capitalist world as a whole was 5.7 per cent during the period from 1961 to 1969; 3.4 per cent in 1970 and 2 per cent (estimated) in 1971. It is thus, clear that the villain of the piece for industrial slump is the crisis-ridden world capitalist economy of which capitalist economy of India is part and parcel.

Let us explain the position in some detail. It is well known that capitalist production is based on market, the motive force of production

being maximum profit of the bourgeoisie and not maximum satisfaction of material and cultural needs of the people which is the motive force of production under socialism. In their drive for monopoly by ousting their respective competitors from market in order to secure maximum profit, capitalists expand production, improve technique of production, introduce large-scale production and produce huge amount of commodities. But under capitalism which is based on exploitation of the people by a handful of capitalists, the people remain in a state of relative poverty resulting in relative reduction of effective demand for goods produced in society. As expansion of capitalist production all the time encounters the narrow limits of consumption by the people production in capitalist society always runs ahead of consumption. The outcome is capitalist crisis of so-called over-production.

The crisis from which present-day capitalism is suffering is different from its earlier crises. Upto first world war in spite of its crisis capitalism was developing far more rapidly than before and it enjoyed relative stability of market in spite of its general crisis till the second world war. But thereafter it has lost even that relative stability of market. As a result, the tendency of decay and stagnation in capitalist economy has become more pronounced and crisis has become more frequent, affecting increasingly larger number of industries and continuing for longer time. Even heavy doses of artificial stimulation to the economy in the form of state orders for increased military production by the ruling

bourgeoisie—last ditch fight by the bourgeoisie to stem the tide of crisis are failing to bring the desired result; militarisation of economy is rather intensifying the crisis. In the prevailing situation it is next to impossible for capitalism even to keep existing industries running with full installed capacities, let alone achieving faster economic growth and steady rise of industrial production.

Added to this general condition of crisis-ridden world capitalist economy are the peculiar problems of Indian capitalist economy. Thanks to failure of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie to introduce radical land reforms, resulting in utter pauperization of the peasantry (except the handful of rich peasants) and agricultural labourers, who together constitute about 70 per cent of the total population, unbelievably low wages of workers, extortionate taxation on common men, ever-soaring prices of essential commodities, etc., the purchasing power of our people is very low. This has tremendously contracted the home market. Foreign market also offers no brighter prospect, it being controlled by powerful imperialists to oust whom from the market is beyond the competitive power of the Indian bourgeoisie. It is for this reason that the little industrial development which India has succeeded in achieving by this time has already landed the capitalist economy of the country into serious crisis of market, bringing in its wake closure of industrial units, large-scale non-utilization of installed capacities of industries, steep decline in industrial production and slow rate of economic growth. There are, of course, some other

factors like shortage of raw materials, paucity of liquid cash, bad management and deliberate closure in order to cheat creditors, Government, share-holders, workers and others, etc. But they are not the main cause of the economic crisis India is passing through. The basic cause is its capitalist economy.

The crisis of so-called capitalist over-production establishes that our society can produce much greater quantity of goods which can easily go to improve the material and cultural conditions of the people only if the means of production are taken away from capitalist ownership and converted into social properties and production is carried on not for maximum profit of the capitalists but for maximum satisfaction of the material and cultural needs of the people. It further shows that productive forces have outgrown the framework of capitalist relations of production and that the latter are acting as a brake on further growth of the former. If the door of industrial revolution and uninterrupted industrial growth is to be opened, this brake on further growth of productive forces is to be removed by replacing capitalist relations of production by socialist relations of production. The working class being the most revolutionary class, on it has devolved the historical responsibility of performing the revolutionary task of fundamental transformation of society by removing this brake. Correctly led by a genuine revolutionary working class party, strikes and **bandhs** become one of the various forms of movements to revolutionize the working class so as to enable them to duly discharge the above-mentioned historical responsibility. So, under the present capitalist rule in no case can the people allow

Existing Labour Laws Heavily Loaded in Favour of Capitalists

strikes and **bandhs** to be banned.

No doubt, our people have always supported and still support just strikes and **bandhs**. But strikes and **bandhs** inconsistent with genuine interests of the people cannot but create just indignation of the working people. And it is a fact that opportunist leadership in our country had given calls for strikes and **bandhs** on many an occasion on flimsy grounds not in conformity with the interest of the exploited down trodden people in India. Sometimes strikes and **bandhs** have been thrust on unwilling people with the force of arms only for purely sectarian party interests or for sheer opportunism. Such irresponsible and unjust strikes and **bandhs** have given a handle to the ruling bourgeoisie and the ruling Congress to create disaffection against left democratic parties among common men, develop in them an anti-strike feeling and alienate the backward section of the people from revolutionary politics. And it must be admitted that the ruling Congress has succeeded to a degree in creating aversion against strikes and **bandhs** *per se* among the public, notwithstanding the fact that the ruling Congress themselves are indulging in strikes irresponsibly called to the detriment of the interest of the people, the latest instance of it being the recent forcible occupation by armed workers of the ruling Congress of the offices and cabins of Eastern Railway at Calcutta and forcing a strike, which also had been condemned by the people. This weakness has got to be overcome. Irresponsible and opportunist calls for strikes, and **bandhs** have got to be stopped. Sense of social responsibility and obligations to people has to be developed along with awareness to rights. But

misuse of strikes can never be a ground for supporting the Centre's move to impose moratorium on strikes and **bandhs** which is an indirect way of banning strikes and **bandhs** without saying it openly. Our people should understand it.

Leave aside for the present the question of social necessity of replacing capitalist order by socialism for social progress and uninterrupted industrial development. Let us here confine ourselves to ordinary democratic demands. It is an undeniable fact that workers of our country are deprived of even those benefits to which are entitled workers of many other capitalist countries (some of them are very small countries and not so advanced). It is also true that labour laws in our country are heavily loaded in favour of the employer class. It cannot be denied also that employers very often violate with impunity provisions of law *e.g.* non-implementation of Wage Board's recommendations, non-deposit of EPF and ESI dues, etc. It is equally true that for all this the working class here has many long-standing grievances which should and can be removed by the authorities without delay. Social justice demands removal of these grievances. It also demands support to legitimate democratic movements by workers to remove those grievances. Strikes and **bandhs** for the realisation of democratic demands, no doubt, fall within the category of legitimate democratic movement. So, any move to ban strikes and **bandhs** as such is a retrograde step contrary to all canons of social justice. Besides, right to organise strikes and **bandhs** is an inalienable right of the working people now. This form of movement for

realising democratic demands or registering protests is recognised as legal as well as legitimate in other capitalist countries. In the circumstances, the move to impose moratorium on strikes and **bandhs**, which is an indirect way of banning them, is a fascistic attack on the democratic right of the working people.

Some of the Congress leaders have started saying that when in communist countries strikes and **bandhs** are not allowed, they should not be allowed here also. This argument is untenable. Under capitalism it is the bourgeoisie that is in state power and not the working people, while under socialism it is the working people, the broad majority of the masses, who wield state power. Under socialism, there being no exploiting class in power, the question of earning rights and freedom through struggle does not arise. To quote Com. Shibdas Ghosh, our beloved leader and teacher "the socialist state does not oppress the individual in order to exploit him in the interest of some exploiting class which the capitalist state does. The socialist state is, no doubt, an instrument of coercion. But this coercion is needed to foil odious individualistic behaviour of some individuals that stands in the way of continuous socialist development and individual's struggles for emancipation and complete freedom." Under capitalism, thus, strikes and **bandhs** are necessary weapons in the hands of the working class in their struggles for emancipation from exploitation against the exploiting class. But in socialist society, there being no exploiter, the working class need not strike and the weapon loses its utility.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

used to brand strikes and **bandhs** as anti-national. His daughter, the present Prime Minister, also calls strikes and **bandhs** as inimical to national interests. This is another plea of the ruling Congress and the Union Government to impose moratorium on strikes and **bandhs** which is an indirect way of banning strikes and **bandhs**. But what after all is national interest? The Indian nation is not an undivided homogeneous whole; it is divided into classes having different and even antagonistic class interests. Broadly speaking, on the one side of it are the exploiters, and their agents and on the other side the exploited masses. This is not the creation or brain-child of communists. It is the inevitable outcome of a historically law-governed process. Whether one likes it or not, it is an objective reality that social forces in our country are historically placed in this way. In such a class-divided society there is no idea or act which is supra-class and which equally serves the interests of both the exploiters and the exploited at the same time. Now if the people constitute the nation then national interest is synonymous with the interest of the people and this should be the real meaning of the term, national interest. But when the ruling Congress Minister and other leaders of theirs take the plea of national interest to ban strikes and **bandhs**, they do not mean people's interest by the term national interest; they mean by this term the interests of the exploiters. Otherwise they would not have used times without number police, military and fascistic repressive measures against the working people fighting against their exploiters and oppressors on the plea of safeguarding national interest. In fact, under capitalism the ruling bourgeoisie and their agents always

Heinous Move of Ruling Congress to Equate Strikes with Lock-outs

try to pass on their own class interest as national interest.

Another plea of the ruling Congress and the Union Government is that it is necessary to impose moratorium on strikes and **bandhs** at least for three years (which actually means banning strikes and **bandhs** for three years for the present) in order to increase production as a means to eradicate poverty of the masses. We have already shown that it is not strikes and **bandhs** but the capitalist economy of the country that stands in the way of rapid industrialization and steady increase of industrial production. So the plea that to increase production strikes and **bandhs** should be banned is untenable. Besides, it should also be realised that under capitalism increase in production does not necessarily mean improvement in the living conditions of the people. Look at this figure. During 1949-50 to 1970-71 average rate of increase in food production in our country was 3.2 per cent as against rate of population increase of 2.5 per cent per year. If increase in production means improvement of the conditions of living of the people then this increase in food production would have brought about corresponding improvement in the standard of living of our people. But the fact has been otherwise; despite increase in food production people are getting less food; despite increase in the production of cotton textile people are getting less clothes, so on and so forth. Increased production under capitalist rule does not necessarily improve the living conditions of the people; it swells the profits of capitalists. Sometimes in place of improvement of the conditions of living of the people, increased production becomes

cause of additional distress and sufferings of the working people. As for example, the outcome of the slogan of 'produce or perish' thrown by the Congress leaders a few years back. The working class readily responded to this call, resulting in rise in industrial production. But goods so produced did not find ready market and started accumulating leading to lay-off and retrenchment of workers in thousands and thousands. For the workers the slogan 'produce or perish', thus turned out to be 'produce and perish'. All these facts prove that now capitalism has become an unachronism. Without its replacement by socialism through revolutionary struggles led by the working class neither can the agrarian revolution be completed, industrial revolution carried out, door of interrupted industrial production opened, abundance of production permanently ensured nor continuous improvement of the material and cultural conditions of the people guaranteed. There is no other way of placing India on the correct road of continuous social progress.

By their move to impose moratorium on strikes and lock-outs the Union Government has motivatedly tried to equate strikes with lock-outs. But the two cannot be equated. For, the two stand on two distinctly different footings. Under capitalism, workers suffer from heavy odds in fighting the attacks on them by their employers but that is not the case with the employer class. Even if lock-out is banned, the employer class does not lose their fundamental right to close the industry, retrench and lay-off workers and take so many other actions against workers in the name

of discipline and smooth production. But if strike is banned, workers lose practically all their weapons to resist retrenchment, lay-off, etc. Besides, strike is an inalienable democratic right of workers. Lock-out has never been accepted anywhere, not even in capitalist society, as a democratic right of the employer. The attempt to equate strikes with lock-outs is no proof of Government's neutral position in the conflict between labour and employer class, which the Government wants people to believe, but is a sinister design on their part to take away the most powerful weapon in the hands of the working class in their struggle against capitalists keeping in tact all the powers of the capitalist employer to mount attacks on workers.

It is no accident that the President and the Prime Minister of India have urged for a three-year moratorium on strikes and **bandhs**, which is an indirect way of banning strikes and **bandhs**. Assured of their unassailable position in the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas of different states, particularly after the recently concluded general elections, the ruling Congress, representing the aggregate interest of Indian monopoly capitalism, is out to move more vigorously along the fascistic path. Their policy and activities are on the one hand to adopt and carry out Social Democratic plans, programmes and measures and grant some minor concessions to the people and thereby try to win over the masses on to their side and on the other hand to resort more nakedly than before to open fascistic methods for forcible suppression of all opposition views and organisations, forcible capture of mass organisations of workers, peasants, youths,

students, etc. led by left democratic parties, forcible suppression of legitimate democratic mass movements by applying various draconian laws and with the help of police and military, continuous curtailment of the democratic right of the freedom of expression, association of the people and subverting democracy by different means. Induction of administration and police to entirely rig elections and procure victory for the ruling Congress by hook or crook in the recently concluded general elections, particularly in West Bengal, indicates the extent to which the ruling Congress can go to smother democracy and establish its power. The move to ban strikes and **bandhs** fits in well with this increasing trend of fascization in our country. Indeed, symptoms of administrative fascism are clearly noticeable now. Recent drive by the ruling Congress to form their own storm troopers by *en masse* recruitment of lumpen proletariat and anti-social elements and equipping them with fire arms to be used against democratic forces poses a serious threat to normal political activities of democratic opposition. With the administration and police throwing off completely administrative neutrality and behaving as the hired force of the ruling Congress party the situation has become all the more bad. If anyone wants proof of all this, he may come to West Bengal and see for himself the situation obtaining here. In fine, it is no time for frustration, despondency, indifference, inaction and whimpering. It is rather high time that our people should stand together as one man and be more vigilant, more doggedly determined and more consciously and militantly organised in order to be able to prepare themselves for organised, sustained

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Our Tasks to Fulfil Right Now

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imperialism. The programme should include measures to (1) provide unitedly active and effective help to national liberation struggles and revolutionary struggles for socialism in colonial, semi-colonial and metropolitan countries, as the case may be, (2) impose upon imperialists peace and peaceful co-existence and thereby defeat imperialist intervention and aggression, (3) keep the newly independent underdeveloped capitalist countries free from influence of imperialist powers and help them in every possible way for their independent development and progress and (4) foil the US policy of nuclear blackmailing.

We appeal to the leadership of the world communist movement and all genuine communists all over the world to come forward with new vigour and enthusiasm and work out concrete steps for the restoration of the lost unity of the communist camp and the solidarity of the socialist states in order that the socialist camp can present a united face against imperialism, notwithstanding ideological differences between different communist parties. Maintenance of unity of the working class and of the international communist movement and maintenance of solidarity of the socialist camp comprising the different socialist states are now of paramount importance; all other issues are subordinated to it.

The working class movement in our country also is marching ahead. While taking due cognisance of it we cannot but note with grave concern the disruption and disunity of the working class movement here. The parties that are moving with the name communist in our country have done the greatest dis-service to communist movement here. Non-revo-

lutionary non-working class petty bourgeois parties as they are, they are incapable of correctly developing and leading the revolutionary working class movement here. It is the Socialist Unity Centre of India on which has devolved the historical duty of concretising Marxism-Leninism on the Indian soil and providing correct revolutionary working class leadership to the people struggling for emancipation from all sorts of exploitation, economic, political, social and cultural. In India the ruling bourgeoisie has mounted its attacks on the working class. The capitalists are trying to shift the entire burden of crisis on to the shoulders of the workers. *En masse* retrenchment and lay-off of workmen are being made. Work-load on workers is being increased. With the constant rise in the cost of living the real wages of workers are coming down. The governments run by the ruling Congress also are nakedly siding with the employer class against the working class. Workers struggling for redress of their long-standing grievances are being forcibly suppressed. Governments are dismissing their employees under special provisions of the constitution without charge-sheeting the employees and giving them any opportunity of defending themselves, thereby denying natural justice to them. Industrial Security Force has been created to forcibly crush legitimate democratic movements by employees of Government undertakings. Black Acts are being enacted to take away existing rights of the workers. Strikes are proposed to be banned. In short, the capitalist class and the governments have mounted their attacks on the working class.

The working class, in spite of many heroic struggles against these mounting attacks,

is still not in a position to defeat them completely due to disunity and disruption among them. The disunity shows no sign of waning. With the split of the AITUC and anti-unity movements by some Central Trade Union Organisations, the disunity is expanding. We strongly feel that in order to successfully defeat the mounting attacks on the working class by the capitalists and the governments, it is essential to remove without delay the disunity in the ranks of the working class and forge solid unity among them. For this it is necessary to develop struggles of workers belonging to different trade union organisations on common issues concerning the general interests of the workers at the bottom as also to move for unity of different Central Trade Union Organisations as a forum of united movement at the top.

At the meeting of the representatives of the principal Central Trade Union Organisations held at Delhi in the third week of May, 1971 the UTUC (Lenin Sarani) made concrete suggestions for development of united movements on common issues on industry basis at plant level and forging unity of different Central Trade Union Organisations. These suggestions were generally agreed upon by others and it was decided that all the Central Trade Union Organisations should sit together by July, 1971 to chalk out a programme. It is unfortunate that the AITUC, HMS and INTUC by their unilateral decision to move together to the exclusion of other Central Trade Union Organisations have, for all practical purposes, subverted the correct move to develop united movements of workers on common issues and all out trade union unity in our country.

When the ruling Congress, particularly the Youth and Student wings of the ruling Congress, are waging fascistic attacks on

the trade unions and other mass organisations of left democratic parties to stop normal political activities of these parties and liquidate opposition views and organisations with the active help of the administration and the police and when symptoms of administrative fascism are increasingly coming to the surface, it is high time that left democratic parties should rise to the occasion, abjure sectarianism, build up broad democratic unity and develop united mass movements against their common enemy, in order to bring back normal democratic atmosphere where all political parties can freely carry on their normal political activities without any fear of threat, intimidation, physical violence and such other undemocratic activities. We must pledge to carry on relentless struggles for the restoration of democracy in our country on the occasion of this May Day.

Massive Victory for DSO

The DSO has won 22 out of 34 seats in Students' Union election at Raghunathpur College in Purulia.

The Chhatra Parishad, the students' wing of ruling Congress has failed to win the election, in spite of its taking recourse to all sorts of coercion, malpractice and large scale terrorism to intimidate the students. The Chhatra Parishad and the Students' Federation had secured six seats each. In the straight contest for electing the office bearers of the students' union the candidates filed by Chhatra Parishad were routed.

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movements to restore normal democratic atmosphere and administrative neutrality at all levels from the topmost to lowest Thana level so that left democratic parties, mass organisations and the people can freely carry on their normal political activities without fear of threat, intimidation, physical violence, murder, etc. We urge upon the people to come forward to fulfil this task.

SUC Rally Demands US Troops' Pull-out From Vietnam

(By a Staff Reporter)

Calcutta, 19th April, 72: A large procession, well decorated with posters, festoons and banners, organised by SUC staged a massive demonstration today in front of the USIS office in Chowringhee at 4. p. m. in protest against the barbaric attack by the USA on Vietnam. The demonstration was led by Com. Nihar Mukherjee, Com. Sukomal Dasgupta, Com. Ashutosh Banerjee, Com. Fatick Ghosh, Com. Protiva Mukherjee and others.

Earlier a massive rally was held under the auspices of the West Bengal Committee, of SUCI at Raja Subodh Mullick Square under the presidentship of Com. Ashutosh Banerjee. The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution hailing the magnificent victories achieved by NLF and condemning the wanton bombing by the USA on Vietnam. The resolution demanded immediate stoppage of US air raids on South and North Vietnam and immediate unconditional withdrawal of all US land, air and naval forces and bases from Vietnam and its neighbouring States.

The meeting urged the

Government of India to immediately recognise the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam and put effective pressure on the US Government to immediately stop its bombing raids on Vietnam and withdrawal of all its land, air and naval forces and bases from Vietnam and neighbouring States.

The meeting also urged upon the Government of India to declare in unequivocal terms that if the US Government do not fulfil these demands, the Government of India would confiscate all US capital in India and refuse to pay back US loans.

SUC Day at Rajgangpur

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an important organiser of the party. Com. Sk. Kasim, as the main speaker of the meeting explained the significance of the day and urged upon the workers to actively come forward to build up the SUCI, the only real revolutionary party capable of bringing about fundamental transformation of the society under the correct guidance of Com. Shibdas Ghosh, the General Secretary of the Party and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the day. Com. Sk. Kasim, in his address also condemned the attitude of the Orissa Cement Ltd.'s management and its petty contractors, who are depriving the workers of their rightful demands.

Orissa Cement Workers' Deputation

(By a Staff Reporter)

On 21st April last a procession of 450 striking Male and Female Mazdoors of M/s. J.P. & Brothers, contractor of Orissa Cement Limited, was organised by Orissa Cement Workers Union affiliated to UTUC (Lenin Sarani) and was taken to Rourkela to meet ALC Rourkela. The processionists demanded immediate implementation of wage agreement arrived at on 30th August '70, which provided the workers the minimum wage of Rs. 3.30 per day. But the contractor is now paying Rs. 1.75 only as against the agreed minimum wage.

The ALC Rourkela had assured them to look into the matter.

TARAPORE WORKERS ON STRIKE

Com. Achintya Sinha, General Secretary, Tarapore Co. Workers' Union and member of the General Council of U.T.U.C (Lenin Sarani) has issued the following statement to the Press.

"Since 12th April last, the workers of Tarapore Co., unable to find out any other avenue for redressal of their long-standing grievances against the management, have been forced to go on strike. The management has refused to accept the legitimate demands of the workers including bonus, wage increase, etc, and even failed to implement the agreements arrived at before. At a bipartite talk between the workers representative and the management although the management agreed to pay 12% bonus, a lump increase of Rs. 15/- to the regular workers and a daily wage of 15 paise to the day labourers, it is sad to note that only three days later the management flatly refused to honour these commitments on the plea of strike threat by the union. As a last attempt the union appealed to the management on 11th April last to come to a settlement through negotiations but it failed to evoke any response from them. Unable to foil the legitimate struggle of the workers the management is now adopting all filthy

tactics to break this strike. In order to put pressure on the workers the management have instituted innumerable false cases against them and resorted to regular threats and intimidation to the workers, including the threat of retrenchment and tried to create bad blood among the striking workers and even are instigating them every minute.

"The Administration has imposed Sec. 144 throughout Tarapore work site and residential camps, banning demonstrations and processions by the workers. This has no doubt encouraged the management to issue charge-sheet on 19th April last against ten executive committee members of Tarapore Workers Union, including the President, Asst. General Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Union.

"It is our fervent appeal to all the democratically minded people and all sections of the struggling masses to come forward to render support to this just and legitimate struggle of Tarapore workers."

SUC Foundation Day Observed in Orissa

(By Our Correspondent)

Jajpur Road (Orissa), April 28,

A big public meeting was held here on 24th April last to observe S.U.C. foundation day under the presidentship of Com Aswini Kr. Jena.

Com. Tapas Dutta, the main speaker, in course of his address, severely condemned the ruling Congress for endangering democracy and fastly developing administrative fascism in the country. Com. Aswini Jena in his presidential address discussed the present political situation of Orissa and urged upon the people of the State to strengthen the S.U.C.I., the only genuine revolutionary

working class party of our country.

ASSAM

This Day was also observed by the Assam State Committee of S.U.C.I. and a public meeting was held at Bhagawati Prasad Baruah Bhavan. Com. Sidheswar Sarma presided and Com. Asit Bhattacharya addressed as the main speaker.